

AN: 09/960,537

Amendment Dated: October 23, 2006

Reply to Office Action of July 31, 2006

Docket No.: 78753-332261

Page 10

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to FIG. 16. This sheet replaces the original sheet. A replacement FIG. 16 is provided that correctly shows key 81.

Attachments: Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above listed claim amendments along with the following remarks are fully responsive to the Office Action issued on July 31, 2006. Claims 12-14 and 22 were cancelled. Claims 2-4, 6, 8-10, 15-19, and 21 are pending. Replacement FIG. 16 is also included herein that includes labeling for key 81.

Claims 8, 18, and 21 have been amended in order to better clarify the scope of Applicant's invention. Claim 15 was amended to incorporate the limitations of base claim 12 and intervening claims 13 and 14 as suggested by the Examiner.

It is believed that the below Remarks, in addition to the above claim amendments, completely address the Examiner's concerns. If the Examiner has any further questions or concerns relating to the pending claims the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

Claims 2-4, 6, 8-19, and 21-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The Office Action states that the specification does not "provide sufficient disclosure to enable the drive mechanism, the guide tower, shim and the sections to function together as an assembly." The specification and drawings, however, clearly illustrate to one skilled in the art how the parts function together.

As is generally discussed on pages 19-21 (paragraphs [0075]-[0082] of the application as published), and as shown in FIGS. 10, 16-19, and 23, the shim 116 is positioned on the guide tower 118 to interact with a surface 119. Surface 119 is also engaged by the rollers 117 positioned on the guide tower 118 and vertically aligned with the shim 116. *See* FIGS. 17-18. The combination of the rollers 117 and the shim 116 keep the surface 119 oriented such that the vertical struts 26 and 28 of each section 24 of each section chain 22 are aligned properly with the section chain 22 to either side and to the drive mechanism 72. The orientation of the section chains of the tower with the guide tower 118 is shown in FIGS. 18-19 and 27 and is discussed throughout the specification. Moreover, the cut away view from FIG. 19 illustrates how the gear rack 36 is oriented inwardly and will interact with the drive gear 73 shown in FIG. 17.

While the details of the drive mechanism 72 are not shown, the specification states that the drive mechanism 72 may include an “electric motor that drives the gears.” Page 22, first paragraph, line 4. An electric motor with a gear interface is well known to those in the art and does not need to be shown or described with any specificity. Furthermore, as shown in FIG. 17, the drive gear 73 is exposed on the guide tower 118 in a location whereby it may “cooperatively interact with the gear rack 36 of each successive section 24, thereby pulling/pushing the tower 22 into an upright position.” *Id.* at lines 2-3.

From the figures and description listed above, the positioning of the shim on the guide tower can be seen relative to the different sections and how the shim helps to position the sections in the proper orientation.

Independent claims 8, 18, and 21 have been amended to more clearly point out and claim how the drive mechanism 13 is situated and how it interacts with the gear rack of the section chains. Support for the amendments is found in the specification and figures discussed above.

Claim 6, dependent upon claim 8, was further amended to clarify how the shim interacts with the gear rack of each section chain.

Claims 2-4, 9-10 15-17, and 19 are each dependent upon an allowable independent claim and are also allowable for at least the same reasons as the allowable claim.

It is believed that the above Amendments and Remarks overcome all of the Examiner’s concerns regarding the claims and 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. If the Examiner has any further concerns, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant’s representative.

Specification

The specification sections have been amended to fix the informalities listed by the Examiner on page 2 of the July 31, 2006 Office Action. A replacement FIG. 16 was also provided that correctly shows key 81. The Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the helpful comments.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 12-14 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) under U.S. Patent No. 4,920,710 to David L. Paine. Each of these claims has been cancelled by the above Amendments. The rejection in view of Paine is therefore moot.

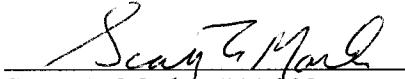
AN: 09/960,537
Amendment Dated: October 23, 2006
Reply to Office Action of July 31, 2006
Docket No.: 78753-332261
Page 13

CONCLUSION

All pending claims are now in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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